

But how do I register to vote?

- It is EASY to register and you can do it any time!

Throughout much of the year, you can register:

- at your local town office/city hall.
- at most state and federal social service agencies and Bureau of Motor Vehicles' branch offices.
- by filling out and hand delivering or mailing a voter registration card to your town office/city hall or the Maine Division of Elections.

During the 20 days leading up to the election (and on Election Day), you must register:

- in person before the municipal Registrar of Voters at your town office/city hall (if you don't know where it is, ask someone who might.)

What do I need to bring with me when I register to vote?

- You will need to bring proof of identity and age (such as a driver's license or State ID card) and proof that you live in the community where you plan to vote (such as mail showing your name and address). Even if you don't have these things, it's still possible to register and vote.

Where do I vote?

Once registered, find out by calling your town office/city hall or visiting:

www.maine.gov/edemocracy



For more information:

Maine Secretary of State Office:

www.maine.gov/sos/

ME Citizenship Education Task Force:

www.mecitizenshiped.org

Maine's Edemocracy Website:

www.maine.gov/edemocracy

League of Women Voters of Maine:

www.lwvme.org

For political party information:

Republican Party platform:

www.maine共和.com

Democrat Party platform:

www.mainedems.org

Green Independent Party platform:

www.mainegreens.org

"Suffrage is the pivotal right."

-Susan B. Anthony

(This means voting is really important!)

*This brochure was prepared by members of
the **Youth Voice and Leadership
Subcommittee of Maine's Citizenship
Education Task Force***

*For more information on the Task Force,
visit: www.mecitizenshiped.org*

Are You Seventeen?

***Did you know
that you might be
able to vote on
June 13, 2006?***



**Exercise your
democratic
muscle.**

There's a new law in Maine...

A new law was recently passed in the Maine Legislature allowing **eligible 17 year-olds** to vote for candidates (not ballot questions or bond issues) in the **June 13, 2006** primary elections if they will be 18, and otherwise eligible to vote, by the general election on November 7, 2006.

So how do I know if I'm eligible to vote in Maine?

- You must be 18 by November 7, 2006.
- You must be a U.S. citizen.
- You must be a resident of Maine and the town or city where you register.

I'm eligible to vote, but how do I vote in the primaries?

- You have to be registered to vote!
- You must enroll in a political party (and you can only vote in your party's primary!)
- On your voter registration card, just check the box of the party you want to enroll in. Then, you can vote in that party's primary!

An important note: Even if you do not want to enroll in a party or vote in the primaries, you CAN and SHOULD register to vote if you are seventeen or older! (Your town office will hold your completed voter registration card until you turn eighteen.)



Why Would I Vote Anyway? Does One Vote Matter...?

The real question should be why wouldn't you vote...

Be an advocate for youth issues:

Did you know this is the **first year** seventeen year-olds are allowed to vote in Maine?

Make history and cast your vote in the June Primary. It is your responsibility to voice the political concerns and interests of the youth, because if you don't...who will?

Have a say in where your money goes:

78% of seventeen year-olds in Maine pay taxes to the state, federal or local governments. The candidates **YOU** elect are making financial decisions for **YOU** and the State of Maine. Don't you want a say in where your hard earned money goes?

"Those who stay away from the election think that one vote will do no good: 'Tis but one step more to think one vote will do no harm." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

(This means if you don't vote, someone you don't like might win the election!)

What exactly is a primary?

In a Primary Election, each political party selects the candidates it will have on the General Election ballot in the fall. Only voters enrolled in a political party can participate in a Primary Election—and they can only vote for candidates within their party.

Winners in a Primary Election appear on the November ballot.

There are some key primaries in Maine in 2006, including:

- Maine Governor
- U.S. Senate
- Maine House of Representatives and State Senate

Be an educated voter!

Research the candidates! Read your local newspapers to find out who is running and what they stand for!

For more information on candidates, visit:

Maine Democratic Party:

www.mainedems.org/info/voting.aspx

Maine Republican Party:

www.maineGOP.com/Candidates

Maine Green Independent Party:

<http://www.maineGreens.org>